

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1429

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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UNCLAS BELFAST 331

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: SDLP CALLS FOR BRITISH GOVERNMENT POLITICAL INITIATIVE

REF: DUBLIN 1930

1. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) ISSUED TIGHT TOUGH POLICY DOCUMENT SEPTEMBER 16 CALLING FOR "CLEAR INITIATIVE" BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT. STATEMENT ACCUSED GOVERNMENT OF DEFERRING FOR "CYNICAL PARTY ADVANTAGE" NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEM UNTIL SCOTTISH AND WELSH DEVOLUTIONS SETTLED. SDLP SPOKESMAN JOHN HUME ANNOUNCED CAMPAIGN TO BE LAUNCHED TO FORCE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO "FACE UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND". HE SAID PARTY DELEGATION WOULD MEET WITH IRISH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION AND PARTY REPRESENTATIVES WOULD LOBBY AT LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE BLACKPOOL. SDLP WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN FURTHER INTER-PARTY TALKS.

2. STATEMENT STRONGLY CRITICIZED BRITISH GOVERNMENT POSITION THAT AGREEMENT MUST COME ONLY FROM PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND THEMSELVES AS A POSITION FORCED ON HMG BY ULSTER WORKER'S COUNCIL STRIKE IN MAY 1974. THIS ATTITUDE, ACCORDING TO STATEMENT, COULD ONLY LEAD TO DEADLOCK AND A CONTINUATION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE DEADLY POLITICAL VACUUM. SDLP DEMANDED CLEAR UNEQUIVOCAL

ANSWERS TO FOUR KEY QUESTIONS. THESE ARE:

- (A) WHAT ARE SHORT AND LONG-TERM INTENTIONS FOR FUTURE NORTHERN IRELAND?
- (B) WHAT IS MEANT BY SAYING NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEM CAN ONLY BE SOLVED BY PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND THEMSELVES?  
"ARE THEY STATING THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT HAVE NO ROLE IN THE MATTER AND ARE NOT CAPABLE OF GOVERNING HERE?"
- (C) ARE REPEATED GUARANTEES TO UNIONIST POPULATION OF CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN UK UNCONDITIONAL? ARE THERE ANY TERMS IN ORDER TO RETAIN MEMBERSHIP? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY? IF NOT, IS SECTION OF UNIONIST POPULATION, A TINY PERCENTAGE OF U.K. POPULATION TO HAVE PERMANENT VETO ON HOW NORTHERN IRELAND IS TO BE GOVERNED WITHIN U.K.?
- (D) ARE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILLING AND DETERMINED TO IMPLEMENT THEIR STATED POLICY DEMOCRATICALLY APPROVED BY VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE BRITISH PARLIAMENT AS TO THE FARIEST METHOD OF GOVERNING NORTHERN IRELAND?

STATEMENT CONTINUED THAT MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR A RESOLUTION OF (POLITICAL) SITUATION HERE RESTS WITH BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND EITHER THEY ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY OR THEY ABDICATE.

3. STATEMENT STOPS SHORT OF CALLING FOR BRITISH WITHDRAWAL BUT IN BBC RADIO INTERVIEW JOHN HUME HINTED BROADLY TO EFFECT THAT IF BRITISH COULD NOT TAKE INITIATIVE THEY MIGHT AS WELL PULL OUT. CONGEN DETECTS NOTES OF SPLIT HERE AT TOP LEVEL SDLP LEADERSHIP. IT DOUBTFUL PARTY LEADER AND MP GERRY FITT IN AGREEMENT WITH TON OR WILL ALL SUBSTANCE OF STATEMENT.  
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